NITE-TIMES NEWS

CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

Chicago Area Timex Users Group — Downers Grove, Illinois
Volume 4, Number 5 — September/October 1990

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C.A.T.U.G. CLUB OFFICERS

Here is the list of 1990 club officers and how to contact them. The club has two strong SIGS, SPECTRUM/TS2068 and QL. If you have questions about either of these fine machines or even the ZX81/TS1000/TS1500 call one of the officers. C=312, S=708.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Butch Weinberg	C373-2470	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Bob Swoger	S576-8068	Newsletter, BBS, etc.
Secretary	John Donaldson	S232-6147	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	Al Feng	S971-0495	Dues and Purchasing

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NITE-TIMES Information

The Nite-Times News is the newsletter of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group. For an annual fee of $12.00 you can become a CATUG member with full membership privileges. Send your dues to :

CATUG TREASURER AL FENG
15 WAKE ROBIN CT
WOODRIDGE IL 60517

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Timex and Sinclair supporting users groups at no charge. Send all newsletter requests to:

CATUG - C/O BOB SWOGER
613 PARKSIDE CIRCLE
STREAMWOOD IL 60107-1647

If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter.

We encourage your user group to copy this newsletter and distribute it at your regular meetings to your members free of any charge as we believe that this will encourage better meeting attendance. If you are a user group that feels as we do, please let us know in your newsletter so that we might do this for our members and keep our attendance up.

Articles originating from our group may be downloaded from our BBS and reprinted.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Jim Brezina
Al Feng
John Donaldson
Bob Swoger, K9WVY

CLUB MEETINGS

!!!!!! MEMBERS TAKE NOTE !!!!!! The Chicago Area Timex Users Group NOW meets on the THIRD Saturday of each month at the home of our meeting coordinator Steve Cooper in Downers Grove, Illinois from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Steve's home is lovingly called the CLUB HOUSE and is located at 1300 Maple Street in Downers Grove just 2 blocks southwest of the Downers Grove Public Library. Steve should be contacted evenings at 708/968-3553. to confirm the meeting schedule.

When visiting be careful of the Dutch Doooooooooorrrrrrrr.....

DATA INTERRUPT

Are you having trouble with your LarKen Disk System while others around you LOVE theirs? Does it often have CRC errors when you try to read the disks of others? Maybe you picked up your drives used in the last two years and acquired your LarKen System to go along with it and immediately had trouble.

I have recently been working with John Shepard of Mississippi and Joan Kealy, a very gracious lady from Texas, both had received LogiCall from me and their LarKen hardware from RMG. The first thing I ask the new LogiCall owner to do is back-up the disks I send them. John called me and asked 'How do I format a disk?' 'With the FORMAT program on your system disk.' I said. 'Where do I get a system disk?' he asked. [It was supposed to come with the LarKen hardware.]

Joan Kealy writes music software. It was my hope to exchange software with her. She sent software to me on a disk that I had formatted and filled with software for her. When I tried to read it, NO GO! I could read the programs that I had put there, but could not read Joan's programs. Joan later sent me disks she had formatted and I couldn't read them either.

She then sent her LK-DOS cartridge to me for a SPECTRUM update and BEHOLD, the EPROM read L3F! Well, perhaps the problem was our old enemy HEAD STEPPING RATE. L3F would mean she had the WD1772 controller chip in her disk interface board. [Her LarKen firmware,

the LK-DOS EPROM, was reading the 30 mS headstep rate on the disk I sent her and taking it to mean 3 mS on her system. Her system was simply trying to read and write to my disk before the disk drive's head was over the correct track.]

I made her a new SYSTEM disk, updated her two LogiCall disks for the L3F FORMAT program and returned it to her. Receiving a letter from her that she was still getting CRC errors when she read anyones disks, I called her on the land line.

I thought that perhaps none of the drives she owned could step from track to track at the faster 6 mS rate required by the WD1772 controller chip. Indeed, this was a difficulty in the TANDY CoCo community. I began to tell her how she might check this out when I heard her say that she had obtained her LarKen system in pieces from RMG.

A thought crossed my mind, I asked her to bring the Disk Interface to the phone. I asked her to read what the large chip said, she replied "RMG". I asked her to remove the label and read it to me. She did and said "WD1770-PH"! "Joan," said I, "your troubles will soon be over. Send me your DOS board and all the disks I sent you. I will have them back to you in no time and you will be able to use even the oldest drives!"

Larry explains it this way: The L3F has a 6 mS default on start up. It finds the step rate number from the 22nd bite on track 0. All the disks Joan reads from her friends are programed for a 30 mS step rate, a 3 at bite 22. But L3F translates this to 3 mS, not 30 mS! Her drives just can't step that fast and she gets CRC errors.

No sooner did I send Joan's system back to her when I received a call from Ron Desind of North Miami. He too was plagued with CRC errors. Again I asked for his EPROM version and controller chip number. Another mismatch!

I got on the phone with ROD GOWEN and informed him of the problem. He said he will also get the word out, but it was his understanding that L3F and WD-1770 were compatible. No way, I said. When Joan's board was here, I tried it to see what she was seeing. ALL 4 of my DRIVES came on at once!

THE MORAL? KNOW YOUR DRIVES SO THAT YOU KNOW WHAT TO ORDER, TAKE INVENTORY AND CHECK YOUR CHIPS!

Each different EPROM version requires a different FORMAT.B_ so make sure you get a system disk and that it is the correct one for your system. _ equals L for LarKen L2, F for L3F, A for AERCO, R for RAMEX and O for OLIGER. The capital letter becomes a small letter if it is a LogiCall version of FORMAT.B_

If you order your system a piece at a time and want to start with the 256K RAM DISK then know that you will also need the DOS board that goes into the cartridge [DOCK] port to make it work. You should specify your EPROM at this point.

The most versatile LarKen 5-1/4" disk system uses version L3 EPROM, not L3F, in the DOS Board and the WD1770 controller chip in the Disk Drive Interface Board. The WD1772 is to be used with the version L3F EPROM only [check your chips] and works only with the latest, fastest disk drive mechanisms. If you have 6 mS drives you will be able to access programs on your disks five times faster than me as I use 30 mS drives from TEAC. More than 200 of my MOTOROLA companions use these drives here in the mid-west.

L3F is ideal for the 3 1/2" systems as all of them can do 6 mS or better for maximum disk access speed.

[Also, be sure you are running the LogiCall Auxiliary

Operating System for maximum ease of operation of your LarKen Disk Operating System!]

--==GATOR==--

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As we read the various newsletters, it is rumored that Chicago may host a Timex/Sinclair FEST in 1991. Not true! It was proposed by the SMUG group the the next FEST happen here but when it was brought up at the July meeting we were informed by our president that the next FEST would be done in Indianapolis. So I asked Frank Davis of ISTUG if this was true. He wrote and said "NO". I reported this to our club and asked if anyone would head up a FEST committee to get one going in the Chicago area as both SMUG and ISTUG have offered to help.

NO TAKERS!

Bob Swoger, Editor
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

TREA$URY NOTE$

Our balance stands at $291.33. Our current paid membership stands at 25.

Al Feng, Treasurer
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

September 8, 1990

John Donaldson, Al Feng, and Nazir Pashtoon attended a picnic hosted by the Glenside Computer Club on a glorious day at Bob Swoger's home. This replaced our scheduled meeting, with our hosts supplying the brats and burgers. (Yumm!) Bob and his gracious wife gave us a very warm welcome and the Glenside Club readily accepted the CATUG delegation into its midst. Background music was provided by hooking up one Color Computer through a MIDI to two keyboards plus a monitor. The music was provided by the club president who sells software through an outfit called Second City Software. Small world: The software and musical selections were written by an old friend of John Donaldson, Mike Knudsen. Thanks, Bob! Thanks Glenside!

October 20, 1990

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM. Those present were: Messrs. Brezina, Cooper, Donaldson, Feng, Majewski, Mills, Sauter and Swoger.

Our club's BBS computer is back on the twisted pair!

Larry Kenny has entered a new business venture which he believes will allow more time for his TS2068 pursuits. His agenda of new items includes a spelling checker, a desktop publisher, building 35 more disk drive DSK-400 systems and 15 LK-DOS boards to plug into AERCO, Oliger and RAMEX systems.

Bob Swoger's status report is that his LogiCall updates have gone out to 16 people since the SMUGfest. He'll be sending LogiCall to Rod Gowen (RMG), Ed Grey, George Chambers (who puts out a terrific newsletter from Toronto, SINC-LINK), and a new copy to Larry Kenny so that when he distributes new DSK-400 systems he will include LogiCall with them.

Mississippi's John Shepherd tried to put a Spectrum ROM onto his AERCO drive system the same way it would on a LarKen. No go. It conflicts with the AERCO interface. He called Larry Kenny who told him to try replacing the AERCO ROM with the Spectrum ROM. It worked out fine. The AERCO ROM lies on top of the system ROM. Typing OUT 244,3 turns on the AERCO system and the same command is used to activate the Spectrum ROM. Of course, this means that he can't use AERCO and Spectrum simultaneously and that he must use his LarKen DOS board when he wants a Spectrum program. He can't take a Spectrum program

on a disk and transfer it to an AERCO disk without going through a tape. (However, the transfer from LarKen to Oliger disk is possible due, largely, to the MAXDOS pioneered by people like Bill Jones.)

Texas' Joan Kealy sent her DOS board up to get "Spectrumized". In showing it to Bob Swoger, he saw what he calls the "Fast LarKen" for the first time. [See DATA INTERRUPT for update]

Larry Kenny started out with WD1770 chips in his earlier boards but switched to a WD1772 in his later boards. Bob uses the older "slow" chip since he has 30 msec drives and, as a result, has been unable to read Joan's disks very well. In working toward a resolution, Bob now has copies of FORMAT.B_ for AERCO, Oliger, LarKen "fast" and "slow", and RAMEX.

When questioned about why this should cause difficulty, Bob stated that Larry Kenny keeps his head-stepping rate information on track 0 of the disk. The 22nd byte on that track is a number between 0 and 3. 0 and 1 represent rates of 6 msec and 12 msec, respectively. 2 is either 20 msec on the old chip or 2 msec on the new one. 3 is 3 msec on the new chip or 30 msec on the new one. The Oliger system, by contrast, keeps the head- stepping rates in a ROM and uses a default setting but allows the user to set a different rate if needed.

A further consequence of this is that Bob has rewritten the Step Rate program to accommodate both the old or new chips.

SPECIAL NOTICE should be given to the prices listed in the EmSoft catalog included in our previous Nite Times News. Peter Hale asks that we point out that his November catalog will have higher prices due to unfavorable currency exchange rates between here and Great Britain.

Michigan's Ivan Zachev wants to know why he can't get his LarKen drive to work with his Portugese 2068. Nazir Pashtoon stated that since it is connected through the cartridge slot, the problem probably lies in the fact that the pinouts differ between the Portugese and U.S. designs. Not all the foils connect to all the pin-outs on the Portugese dock port. Ivan will most likely have to do a little rewiring to make it O.K. Nazir remembers reporting this case 6 years ago and pointing out the differences. (He'll have to try to find the information in his files.) But he feels that the Portugese model was a better design evolution. For example, the RGB output on the Portugese machine has 16 colors and includes an intensity control; the American product doesn't and only has 8 colors!

Wishful thinking: Bob Swoger mentioned that Donaldson uses an IBM emulated disk to send this column to Dave Lebowitz who ships the data to him by modem. Why, he wonders, isn't there an emulation program for use with his LarKen device? If someone could do it for the ZX81, why not for the TS2068/LarKen?

Switching to the QL, Al Feng has ordered a Minerva update at the SMUGfest for QDOS but doesn't know when it might arrive. He explained that it's firmware rather than software. For those who don't know, he said there's software and hardware - firmware is "what's in your chips". The Minerva features faster memory scanning. This won't mean much to those with the basic 128 K but for those who have memory expansion - especially Trump Cards - it will be a boon. Up to now, added memory has meant a slower machine. It also does a "soft reset", meaning that it won't go through a memory check before resetting. When it comes, we'll all be interested in seeing it.

Donaldson reported on his 35th anniversary trip to Scotland

(just the part relative to our beloved computers). His only contact was in a store in Inverness that displayed a Spectrum Plus 3 in the window.

Inside, he asked for QL programs. They didn't have any! How about a Z88? They could get one on special order but they've never seen one! So he settled for 3 Spectrum games tapes out of hundreds of them. (Didn't see any applications tapes.) The tapes cost about $4 each, generally, with his highest one about $8. There were a couple at about $15 but he left them. He felt he could've spent $100 easily - for games. The Spectrum Plus 3s looked nice but weren't operating. Later on, in a newsstand, he found Sinclair User magazine with a free cassette containing 3 programs attached to its cover! He grabbed it and took it home. Works fine, too!

Jack Dohany has warmed the cockles of our 2068ers' hearts. He has apparently set aside his QL and returned to the TS2068 and is selling a new word processor/ desktop publisher called Word-Master.

Before any more time slips away, CATUG wishes to publicly thank RMG for all the door prizes that were donated to the SMUGfest. Three cheers for Rod Gowen. Hip, hip! Hip, hip! Hip, hip! (Readers may add Hoorays where appropriate.)

The meeting ended in discussion on which Saturday to set as CATUG's "regular" schedule. It was voted that the second be the established one but this was revised in an ad hoc meeting to set it back to the third Saturday of each month.

Any chance of seeing Steve Cooper's QL in action was dashed when it went on the blink. Symptoms: blank screen; no video. Nazir Pashtoon took it home and later called the secretary to say - with some amazement - that the 68008 CPU had died. (This, he had never seen!) Another chip was substituted for the baddie and it's up and running again. What would we ever do without Nazir?

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Following the meeting, Steve Cooper demonstrated how he formats Oliger disks. Bob tried once again to get LarKen DOS to work on the JLO system. If the LarKen system is run alone on the system, all is fine but, as it did on earlier tries, the JLO system blew away three of Bob's LarKen disks when he tried to run both systems.

This done, Donaldson's Scottish souvenir Spectrum tapes were loaded in and the games began.

John Donaldson, Secretary
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

GATOR's TWISTED PAIR

!!!!!! TAKE NOTE !!!!!!
We are on a new computer.

As you have just read in John Donaldson's report, the PDP is down. Fortunately we have friends! We have migrated to a VAX but I will have to learn DCL to get the BBS fully operational again. You may upload and read all the information in the DIRectory. You see the DIRectory by typing DIR, you upload by typing UPLOAD filename.type and you read by typing TYPE filename.type . If you wish to download to a TS2068 with MTERM II type DOWNLOAD filename.type. Use the info below to log-in.

```
*******************************
*       C A T U G  B B S      *
*         708/576-7140        *
*    Type at the > prompt:    *
*     MOTOROLA then GUEST     *
*        BYE to log out       *
* Commands are:  DIR, TYPE,   *
*        UPLOAD filename.type *
*      DOWNLAOD filename.type *
*******************************
```

! ! ! R E M E M B E R ! ! !
We STILL have a 24 hour BBS and encourage you to exchange mail and contribute to the Download Section. Use it and have fun!

NEWS ITEMS

As of our October meeting we are meeting again on the THIRD Saturday as we did before mid-1989.

ITEMS FOR SALE THROUGH THE CLUB

LogiCall AOS-LKDOS Software Ensemble for TS2068 and Spectrum includes LogiCall 4.4 TASWORD II V2.4 VU-CALC VU-FILE and MTERM2 Drivers modified for LogiCall, DISKS.B1 TAPES.B1 steprt.B1 HEADER.BT (tape header reader by Nazir Pashtoon) FORMAT.B_ MOVE.BL and more all on 2 SSDD disks for $5. You must specify your LK-DOS EPROM version. If you already have a copy you are encouraged to distribute copies to other LarKen LK-DOS users for as you see by the price we are not in the business of making money on it, just making LarKen's LK-DOS the BEST!

==========

So you like to fly? The 747 Flight Simulator for Spectrum by Derek Ashton of DACC sold over 40K copies in EUROPE. Requires Spectrum Emulator. Supplied on LarKen SSDD or DSQD disk only at this time for $10 which goes to Derek Ashton now working at MOTOROLA, INC., Schaumburg, IL.

Call in requests to Bob Swoger at W708-576-8068 H708-837-7957

==========

Want to try MS-DOS first before you switch? Try QLuMSi DOS, the MS-DOS SIMULATOR on your QL first.
QLuMSi (disk/specify) $15

Try Al's Side-Kick on your QL. It is an AOS like LogiCall on the TS2068 and can make your life on the QL a lot easier [you may never lust for MS-DOS again!]
QLUSTer (disk/specify) $10

CALL: Al Feng H(708) 971-0495

SPECIAL DEALS AND BUYS

It has come to our attention that some LarKen Users are using something less than Version 3 firmware. The club will supply updated EPROMS, SYSTEM DISKS, and MANUALS for just $5 which includes shipping and handling, free if ordered with LogiCall or Spectrum ROM.

==========

If you are a LarKen LK-DOS owner and would like a SPECTRUM V2 kit for your system we will supply an EPROM, socket and 74HCT32 for $12 which includes shipping and handling. The install instructions are in your LarKen manual. We shall not be responsible for your install job. AERCO owners need only the SPECTRUM EPROM for $10

==========

If you have a mismatch between you LarKen DOS EPROM and your Western Digital Controller chip, we will send you the correct one for free on behalf of our friends Rod Gowen of RMG and Larry Kenny of LarKen.

Call in requests to Bob Swoger at W708-576-8068 H708-837-7957

ARTICLES

Tricks Sinclair Never Gave Us

by James F. Brezina

At the January meeting of CATUG, Bob Swoger said he would like to see a new article by me for our newsletter. Steve Cooper said, "Why don't you write about some of the special things you can do with the keys." I was puzzled about what Steve was referring to, then I remember something I had demonstrated to him and Bob. These things were not my original ideas but came from the April 1984 edition of CATS newsletter.

All the letter keys on the 2068 have at least five functions, the number keys on the top row have as many as seven. The

colors on the strip above the keys mainly refer to preceding the numbers with INK or PAPER. The functions above the keys are accessed with the use of the CAPS Shift and not by the use of the E cursor as the letter keys are. The functions below the number keys are accessed only by use of the E cursor and SYMBOL SHIFT, whereas, the letter keys require the E cursor and either the CAPS SHIFT or SYMBOL SHIFT. My explanation of the two additional functions of the number keys follows.

The 8 and 9 keys can be used to turn the FLASH off and on without the entry of FLASH on the screen in the program listing. This is done by getting the E cursor and pressing the CAPS SHIFTED 9 key. This inserts a SETFLASH character. Everything printed on the screen following this will FLASH. To turn the FLASH off, you get the E cursor again and press the CAPS SHIFTED 8 key. If you want to set the BRIGHT on flag, get the E cursor again and press the unshifted 9 key. To set the BRIGHT OFF, get the E cursor again and press the unshifted 8 key. If what you enter is a string in a PRINT statement, It will FLASH or be BRIGHT on the screen when the program is RUN as well as in the program listing. Herb Bowers SR. used the FLASH function in his "MONEY MACHINE II" program.

The remaining number keys can be used to change either INK or PAPER without the use of the INK or PAPER function keys. To use these functions on the number keys you again have to get the E cursor. Now pressing the CAPSSHIFTED number, 0 through 7, you get the corresponding INK color for anything entered after that. Pressing the unshifted number, with the E cursor, will give you the PAPER color. These changes will be in effect in a program listing and, of course, in a string following a print statement on RUNning the program.

The preceding bits of information were credited to Gyuri Grell of CATS. I added some of the additional comments.

I have purchased some programs on tape that have had the INK in black at the beginning of the listing and, in scrolling through, have found another color of INK. I presume that the above description of color changing is how it was done. Before I knew about this, I had accidently stumbled on this but didn't know why. A while back, I purchased a program called "The TRACER". When you load in this program and try listing it, you get a line 0 with nothing visible in it and that covers the whole screen. When you call for LIST 1, a line 5 shows up but the rest of the listing is covered by a blue mask. I tried getting rid of the blue mask with the EXTENDED mode number keys but it didn't work. I wish I knew how that masking was done. I did find out, however, the listing can be printed out on a printer with LLIST.

I have, at times, typed in a long program with long lines. Sometimes I have found two lines that are exactly the same. I decide to bring that line down with the EDIT key and change the line number so I won't have to retype the whole thing. When I have tried to delete the line number using the DELETE key, the DELETE token is printed after the number. Pressing the DELETE key again, deletes the DELETE but sometimes not the line number. This can keep happening over and over again. Ned Beeler, of CATS, gives this tip. Move the cursor in front of the line number and enter a keyword. After doing this, you move the cursor in back of the line number and you can delete both the line number and keyword easily. He claims that the computer now thinks that the number isn't a line number.

The remaining little tip pertains to scrolling. If you

are looking at a listing, and the word scroll? appears, pressing CAPSSHIFTED 3 or 4 lets two screens of data move by before it stops. This bit of information was supplied by David Horshor, ATSU, Ohio.

There are some programs that cannot be broken out of with the BREAK key. If you come across such a program, try the down cursor, CAPSSHIFTED 6, key. One such program is Herb Bowers' "MONEY MACHINE II."

[Ok, Jim. Since you offer these very fine ideas, let's try it out. Again, as there are programs for the TS2068 that need this kind of help, let's take on KNIGHT LORE, a very nice SPECTRUM game that has a short instruction manual with too little help but a nice story. I have added it to the BASIC driver and it is presented below.

The colors presented in Jim's article above are in the listing below but, of course, don't show up, you have to do them. On page one and two make the words KNIGHT LORE, KEYBOARD CONTROLS, PAUSE and PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE yellow. Make LEFT red, RIGHT magenta, MOVE FORWARD green, JUMP cyan, and PICK UP/DROP blue. The border and paper are black and the text is white.

On the following pages THE WEREWULF is red, KNIGHT LORE and mossy is green, MELKHIOR, TUNES, and THE MIST TUNES are magenta, the MOON is yellow and the text for the mist tunes is cyan. If you wish to download this driver from our BBS, download KNIGHTLORE.HEX in the HEX mode.]

```
   1 REM put your gothic charact
er set here
   3 GO TO 300
   7 INK 0: PAPER 0: BORDER 0: C
LS : RANDOMIZE USR 100: LOAD "kn
ight.C$"SCREEN$ : GO SUB 980: GO
 SUB 100
  10 BEEP .1,1: BEEP .1,2: BEEP
.1,3: BEEP .1,4: BEEP .1,5:PAPER
 0: BORDER 0: INK 7: BRIGHT 1: C
LS : PRINT BRIGHT 1; INK 7;AT 9,
5;"LOADING: KNIGHT LORE ";AT 12,
10;"PLEASE WAIT"
  20 POKE (PEEK 23641+256*PEEK 2
3642),PEEK 23649: POKE (PEEK 236
41+256*PEEK 23642)+1,PEEK 23650
  30 POKE (PEEK 23633+256*PEEK 2
3634),PEEK 23647: POKE (PEEK 236
33+256*PEEK 23634)+1,PEEK 23648
  40 POKE 23662,PEEK 23618: POKE
 23663,PEEK 23619: POKE 23664,PE
EK 23621
  90 RANDOMIZE USR 100: LOAD "kn
ight.C1"CODE
 110 CLS : PRINT AT 0,0;"      K
 N I G H T   L O R E     CONTROL
LING YOUR ADVENTURER"
 120 PRINT '"       KEYBOARD CO
NTROLS"'"LEFT  Your Adventurer
 will turnleft using the Z C B a
nd M keys."
 130 PRINT "RIGHT  Your Adventur
er will turnright using the X V
N or S Shft."
 140 PRINT "MOVE FORWARD     You
r Adventurerwill move forward us
ing any key on the second row, A
 S D F etc."
 150 PRINT "JUMP   Your Adventur
er will jumpusing any key on the
 third row, Q W E R etc."
 160 PRINT "PICK UP/DROP     You
r Adventurercan pick up  or drop
 an  objectusing the 1-0 keys."
 170 PRINT "PAUSE      The whole
 game can bepaused by using the
 Caps Shiftor Space/Break keys."
 190 GO SUB 980
 210 PRINT AT 4,0;"       JOYSTI
CK CONTROLS"'"Your  Adventurer
can  be  fullycontrolled by usin
g the KEMPSTONINTERFACE,
CURSOR  CONTROLLEDINTERFACE or t
he SINCLAIR INTER-
FACE II  and joystick,   by re-
placing the LEFT, RIGHT, FORWARD
JUMP and PICKUP/DROP commands.
                                "
 220 PRINT "  When using the KEM
PSTON INTER-
FACE and DIRECTIONAL CONTROL the
letter keys provide the PICK UP/
DROP command.              "
 230 FOR I=18 TO 21: PRINT AT I,
0;"   ": NEXT I
 240 GO SUB 980
 245 POKE 23606,PEEK 23635+6: PO
KE 23607,PEEK 23636-1
 250 PRINT AT 0,0;"          THE
 WEREWULF                  "
 260 PRINT AT 2,0;"My journey's
end is near; as thelast few ebbs
 of daylight  dancefleetingly in
 the  cooling  twi-
light, then suddenly dart off to
   chase the red sinking sun.
```

```
                "
 270 PRINT " Behind me I feel n
ight's darkicy fingers slithe
r up longlooming shadows, h
iding behindlarge mounds and
  boulders,watching my every mo
ve . . .          silently waitin
g . . .
                "
 280 PRINT " For days I have jou
rneyed from the realms of the ju
ngle wulf to'KNIGHT LORE' castle
 to seek theold dying wizard and
 ask for his help to free me
 from this          deathly curs
e . . ."
 290 GO SUB 980
 320 PRINT AT 2,0;"  For countl
ess nights I have slept chained
  to trees to keepmy deathly cu
rse at bay, but now      I am he
re . . .
                "
 330 PRINT "  My footsteps echo
 around the damp mossy walls of
  the largechamber, as I enter
through theopen main gateway,
  colossaldoors judder open in a
n untouch-
ed groaning symphony, beckoning
  me forward on my quest.
                "
 340 PRINT "  I sense the old wi
zard's gaze playing upon me, e
ncapsulatedwithin the labyrinth
  of trapsand tests, to keep o
ut all butthe most persistent o
f unwantedguests who seek an au
dience with the great wizard M
ELKHIOR.   "
 390 GO SUB 980
 430 PRINT AT 2,0;"Suddenly a co
ol blue mist startsto ebb forth
from the cracks inthe ancient
 stone-
work. As itdoes so it begins to
  take formand becomes a powerf
ul swimmingswirling vortex of e
nergy.
                "
 440 PRINT "  Over all of the n
oise can be heard the chanting a
nd singingof long forgotten
tunes, allsung in a blur of for
getfulness."
 450 FOR I=13 TO 21: PRINT AT I,
0;"   ": NEXT I
 490 GO SUB 980
 510 PRINT AT 0,0;"          THE
MIST TUNES                  "
 530 PRINT AT 4,0;"THE WIZARD'S
OLDER NOW THAN ALL,HIS HELP YOU
SEEK WITHIN THISWALL. FOR FORT
Y DAYS YOUR QUESTMAY LAST, LOC
ATE THE POTION,MAKE IT FAST!
                "
 540 PRINT "THIS HIDEOUS SPELL
  UPON YOURSOUL, TO LOSE ITS
HOLD  MUSTBE YOUR GOAL.
    BEWARE, THE TRAPS FROM
HEREBEGIN, THE CAULDRON TELLS
WHATMUST GO IN    TO BREAK THE C
URSEAND MAKE THE SPELL     TO SA
VEYOURSELF AND MAKE YOU WELL."
 590 GO SUB 980
 620 PRINT AT 0,0;"          THE
 WEREWULF                   "
 630 PRINT AT 2,0;"  The mist s
uddenly ceases its action and di
ssipates as quicklyas it came.
I drop to the floorand with full
 knowledge of the old wizard I
 begin my quest.
                "
 640 PRINT "  Dimly lit torches
 light the massive stone walls,
 their tiredflickering flames n
ever seemingto penetrate the ink
y darkness for more than a few
 feet . . .                 "
 650 PRINT "  Crystalline Merky
ls, hideous Hobgoblins, stand fr
ozen on hugemonoliths, glitter
ing in thecool trembling moon
light. En-
capsulated by the old wizard
long ago, they await their fate
in an un-
ending task of defence, silently
 and stoney.            "
 690 GO SUB 980
 730 PRINT AT 2,0;" This is thei
r everlasting fate as guardians
  of 'KNIGHT LORE'castle, until
 the ultimate death of the old s
orcerer . . .
                "
 740 PRINT " The moon has risen
quickly and in the fullness of i
ts cool bluelight, I become a We
rewulf . . .                "
 750 PRINT "  My fate is now all
 too clear, I have but forty day
s and fortynights to find the
  old wizardand seek his help a
nd magicalinstruction, before m
y tormentedsoul becomes forever
. . . .              a werewulf !
 ! !       "
 780 FOR I=18 TO 21: PRINT AT I,
0;"   ": NEXT I
 790 INPUT INK 6;"  Press ENTER
 to CONTINUE "; LINE A$
 910 RETURN
 980 INPUT INK 6;"  Press ENTER
 to CONTINUE "; LINE A$
 990 BEEP .1,1: BEEP .1,2: BEEP
.1,3: BEEP .1,4: BEEP .1,5:PAPER
 0: BORDER 0: INK 0: BRIGHT 1: R
ETURN
```

```
9989 STOP
9992 RANDOMIZE USR 100: SAVE "KN
IGHT.B1" LINE 7
9998 POKE 23606,0: POKE 23607,60
9999 RANDOMIZE USR 100: LOAD "L.
B1"
```

QL EMULATOR for the AMIGA

by Al Feng

The QL EMULATOR for the AMIGA was mentioned in a previous newsletter. For those of who may have missed the REMarks, Nazir Pashtoon and I spent about three hours running some software compatibility tests of Rainer Kowallik's [Berlin, Germany] SOFTWARE (!) on two AMIGA computers.

Kowallik's QL EMULATOR is NOT currently a commercial product; I get the impression that it is a spin-off from some Doctoral research; and, I think that in North America we should consider this as being BETA-version software at the present time.

This is NOT the first EMULATOR for the QL. A DAUGHTER board is available (in/from the UK) for use in ATARI computers for about 200 BP Sterling (that's about $400 +/-; NOT cheap, to say the least!).

For those 2068 people out there who may be wondering why someone would want an emulator for the QL, it has been noted by people better "informed" than myself that QDOS may be the "best" 68000 operating system (OS) for a micro-computer, bar none. NETworking and multi-TASKing (of sorts) are just two of the advanced capabilities which can be implemented with minimal, additional code.

Of course, the penny-pinching penchant of Sinclair Research Ltd. probably influenced the decision to use the MC68008 rather than the MC68000. Their demise put an end to hardware evolution.

As good as QDOS may be as an OS, the hardware platform is getting long-in-the-tooth. The 68008 CPU pushing data through an 8-bit bus occassionaly makes it seem as though you are time-sharing with someone else on the computer.

The QL EMULATOR for the AMIGA hardware platform allows the current/potential QL user(s) the opportunity to maintain use of most of his/her existing software, while gaining the advantage of a 16-bit data bus.

Nazir assisted me with my informal tests. Learning to double-click the mouse was the first obstacle which I had to overcome! There are some other AMIGA-DOS "quirks" with which I was not familiar (e.g., the soft-reset key combination). By and by, after the proper sub-directory was opened, we had QDOS running on the AMIGA.

We "ran" it successfully on both an AMIGA 1000 w/512K (with a 2000 keyboard) as well as an AMIGA 500 w/1024K.

This should be taken as a conditional statement since the apparent overhead on the AMIGA's system is well over 256K. The 512K AMIGA had something in the neighborhood of 196K FREE_MEM left after QDOS was on board.

A 1 meg unit would have around 708K. I think current AMIGA 2000 allows for up to 2 meg of system memory.

The 68000 processor in tandem with the 16-bit data bus does make a visible difference ... TurboQUILL+ is even better -- probably comparable to using PC-QUILL on a(ny) clone.

The PC-CONQUEROR emulator (for those who might be interested), requires a 1 meg AMIGA. The available memory for QDOS was somewhere between the memory available on a 640K and 786K QL as one might suspect. MS-DOS probably runs at about 1.0 Mhz vs 0.5 Mhz on a standard QL.

FORMATting MS-DOS disks was problematical. This is in part due to the non-standard disk drives used on AMIGAs. The

disk formatted to 723968/730112 bytes (i.e., 6144 bytes "bad"; or, 12 bad sectors).

TASKMASTER does NOT WORK.

QRAM does NOT WORK.

The preliminary conclusion as to why neither TASKMASTER nor QRAM may work is because Kowallik (as well as the ATARI TOS writers) apparently chose to ignore Motorola's request regarding use of the A-line (vs. F-line) in calls to the system (this has something to do with the TAS [Test and Set] instructions/calls). This is really beyond me and I may have gotten it wrong. The apparent code conflict should resolvable (though my understanding of the problem probably will never be).

TURBO-compiled programs DO work (e.g., QLUSTer); BUT, it does NOT seem that you can use the TURBO compiler (v.2.05) with the AMIGA.

The current screen display visible is "square" with the bottom 40 pixels not shown ... akin to running a monitor-only program on a NTSC television (testing was done with an RGB monitor). The problem has been forwarded to Harvey Taylor as he (apparently) currently uses an AMIGA 2000 and may find it to be a fascinating enough problem on which to spend a few moments of his time.

A REAL HARDWARE DEFICIENCY which I noted to was that disk access was incredibly slow ... untimed, but the impression is that it is s-l-o-w-e-r than loading from microdrive cartridges!

I queried Nazir as to whether this could not be overcome with dedicated" drives whereby the AMIGA's drive is shunted to "last-in-the-chain" and the STANDARD drives are activated. A dedicated interface may be needed ... Nazir had been considering my query ... he had considered using an IBM compatible drive as an AMIGA drive with an N.A.P designed interface card to make it think it was an AMIGA drive ...

For what may have been a limited time, the "original" AMIGA 1000s w/512K were available for around $300.00 (+/- $50.00). Some AMIGA dealers may still have the older units in stock as (it should be noted that the AMIGA 1000 uses a "different" set of proprietary chips than the 500/2000/3000).

A new(er) AMIGA 500 is cheaper than a THOR XVI (the AMIGA 500 is a keyboard/system box with an "okay" keyboard). But then, even an ATARI ST(E) w/ DAUGHTER board is cheaper than a THOR!

There are some things that STILL need to be worked out as of mid-December (the screen display and the "dedicated" QDOS disk drives). But, if you think you can overcome these problems; or, if are willing to gamble that others will resolve the forementioned problems in the near future, then you should keep an eye out for a well priced, used/new AMIGA.

If it isn't already apparent, the reason that the QL/AMIGA emulator has significance is that it gives "new" legs to a familiar and proven operating system. Proprietary (i.e., "scarce") chips such as the ZX-8301/ZX-8302 are eliminated. Thus, as long as there is an AMIGA, you will have a platform on which you can run your software.

HMMmm. If someone can just convince Rainer Kowallik to do the same for with QVIEW's MINERVA code (or, vice-versa) ... we could make those legs BIONIC (!) ...

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